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Lansing



Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Michigan Historical Museum

Lansing, Michigan

May 11, 2009

Call to Order

President Bus Spaniola called the of the Board of Directors (Board) meeting of the Friends of Michigan History, Inc. (Friends) to order at 10:06 A.M.

Board Members Present: Larry Griffin, Keith Harrison, Richard Johnson, Rose Moye, Bus Spaniola, Paul Tarr, Morris Thomas, Tom Truscott, Ralph Sims, Charles Seeley, Bill Wellman, and Geneva Kebler Wiskemann.

Board Members Absent: Adriana Greci Green, John Irwin, and Louise Stilwill.

Board Members Excused: Adriana Greci Green, John Irwin, and Louise Stilwill.

Michigan Historical Museum (Museum) Staff Present: Chris Dancisak and Martha Bloomfield.

Guests Present: Senator Cameron Brown and wife, Helen, and a legislative assistance.

Senator Brown spoke to the Board about 25 proposed Senate bills designed to eliminate the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries and to put these functions (Historical Commission, Library Michigan Historical Center, etc.) within the Michigan Department of State. The proposed legislation is designed to replace what the Governor has called for in her proposed budget (elimination of HAL Department administration and the dispersal of all the various HAL entities among various other Departments). He encouraged the Board and its individual members to support the proposed bills.

There was concern expressed that a proposed budget bill (247) would take the Michigan Historical Marker Program out of state government and give it to a nongovernmental organization (the Michigan Historical Society) to administer. Senator Brown indicated that proposed Senate Bill 525 would counter the proposed budget bill and would move the state marker program to the Department of State.

Concern was expressed that in addition to this series of bills, other proposals are currently being looked at. One of these proposals is being put forth by the Michigan Historical Foundation (Foundation). It was expressed that the Board needs to be provided a copy of the Foundation's proposal for review.

Approval of Agenda

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda as presented; motion passed.

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made and seconded to approve as transmitted the minutes from the April 2009 Board meeting; motion passed.

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President's Report

President Spaniola reported that former Board member Dave Mactell passed away. Bus stated that he attended the wake the night before the funeral. Chris Dancisak indicated that he also went to the visitation. It was indicated that Dave passed away while playing golf in North Carolina.

The Legislative Reception that took place on April 21st was discussed. In general, the program was reasonably well attended with 17 Senators or their staff; however, there also were several Legislators who had indicated that they would attend but failed to do so. There were a couple of things that did not go as planned. Most notably, and due to the sporadic arrival of the Legislators, the Board, the Foundation and the Michigan Historical Commission were not able to provide opening comments and to express their collective desire to see that the Michigan Historical Center and all of its current professional disciplines remain intact once the HAL is dissolved. It was indicated that the Board needs to keep this logistics problem in mind and make the necessary adjustments in order to avoid this problem the next time the Board hosts a Legislative reception. It was indicated that all the material made available that night needs to be re-sent to the Legislators.

A motion was made and seconded to send out the Board's position material to the Friends' membership and to all the Legislators and to cover one-half of the cost of the mailing; motion passed.

Rose Moyer indicated that she would work with Paul Tarr to get this done.

Treasurer Report

BALANCE	04-01-09	8,590.00
DEPOSITS		
4-05-09	555.40	
4-14-09	<u>30.00</u>	
	585.40	
TOTAL		9,175.40
Cashed Checks		
1438 Fayette	76.60	
1439 Walker Tavern	139.60	
1440 Dancizak	<u>19.07</u>	
Total	235.27	- 235.27
BALANCE	04-31-09	8,940.13
Uncashed Checks		
1437 Historic Ft. Wayne	75.00	
Available Funds		8,865.13
Benevolent Fund	50.00	

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A motion was made and seconded to approve, as transmitted, the Treasurer's report for the period April 1 – April 30, 2009; motion passed.

Presentation of Bills

No Bills presented that were not otherwise previously approved.

Museum Report

Chris Dancisak reminded the Board that May 30th will be the *Be a Tourist in the Home Town* event. He indicated that plans were on track for this event and the 20th year celebration of existence of the Museum complex, which will be celebrated on the same date.

He also reported that due to the budget cuts by the Governor state employees will be required to take six furlough days. The question that currently needs to be address is if these days need to be spread out or can they be taken all at once.

Committee Reports

A. *2009 Veterans Day Program Committee. (Paul Tarr and Larry Griffin – Co chairs):* No report.

B. *Membership Committee (Keith Harrison – Chair).* No report.

C. *Board Nominating Committee (Charles Seeley and Tom Truscott).* No report.

D. *Magazine/Military Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair).* No report

E. *Grants Committee (Adriana Greci Green - Chair).* No report.

F. *Newsletter Committee (Paul Tarr and Bill Wellman, Co-chairs).* Paul Tarr indicated that the committee was still in need of material for the newsletter.

G. *Fund Raising Committee (Bus Spaniola - Chair).* President Spaniola expressed concern about the lack of people for the upcoming Collette Travel trip, but also that he was still hopeful and would take a wait and see attitude.

H. *Calendar (2011) Committee (Tom Truscott & Rose Moye, Co-chairs).* No report.

I. *Legislative Reception Committee (Paul Tarr – Chair) –* This issue was discussed under the President's Report.

Old Business

A. *License Plates.* President Spaniola indicated that the bill is still making its way through the Legislature.

B. *IRS Group Exemption Application Status.* There has been no notification regarding the Friends' letter application to the Internal Revenue Service for a Group Exemption Number.

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D. *Telephonic Board Attendance.* Nothing has changed since the last meeting. The Board's current meeting location on the 1st floor of the Museum does not have telephonic capability.

New Business

Charitable Solicitation License. Secretary Keith Harrison indicated that based on a discussion with a state attorney, the Friends needed to renew its state charitable solicitation license, which expired on July 31, 1997! With the assistance of Richard Johnson and Chris Dancisak, the Board was able to put together financial reports back to 1998 (the Attorney Generals' Office wanted statements back to 1996). According to Secretary Harrison, in light of the complexities added by all the previous year's statements, the preparation of the renewal license would be very difficult to do and he therefore recommended that the Board hire an accountant or financial firm to prepare this initial renewal license. Subsequent renewals will not be that difficult once the Board gets this initial license approved by the Attorney Generals' Office.

A motion was made and seconded to seek professional financial assistance to prepare the charitable solicitation renewal license application and to allocate up to \$500 for the task; motion passed.

Secretary Harrison was directed to provide the application and the financial material to both Board Member Paul Tarr and Board Member Bill Wellman who would obtain an estimate from financial contacts that they knew. Both were to provide the Secretary Harrison, before the June Meeting, with bid responses from their contacts to complete the Board license applications.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at Noon.

Respectively submitted,

Keith G. Harrison

Keith G. Harrison, Secretary
Board of Directors
Friends of Michigan History, Inc.

The next Board meeting will be Monday, June 8, 2009, in Lansing. This also will be the date of the Friends' Annual meeting.